

A

# REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

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Saturday, November 25. 1710.

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THE Case of Credit having been clear'd up, at least I think so, in my last, it remains to Enquire, who are they that are the present Instruments of running down the Credit? Are they the *Whigs*, or the *Tories*? If I should ask who are for France? Who are for bringing in the Pretender, the *Whigs* or the *Tories*, perhaps you would think it were more easily answer'd— The People have distinguish'd themselves very plainly on this Head, I need not Examin into it all al.

Indeed the Nature of the Thing sets it out, and any one may answer themselves— We have indeed, a wild Suggestion, and the Party have taken some Pains, in this

time of Publick Delusion, to possess the poor abused Country People, with this wild Story, That the *Dissenters* are for the Pretender; that the *Whigs* are turn'd *Jacobites*; that the Low-Church Men are *Atheists*; and that the *Bishops* are *Presbyterians*— But these Things will die of themselves, and the Persons Accused need be under no Concern, for clearing up their Reputation from that Scandal.

It is in vain to Tax the *Whigs* with being for the Pretender, or the *Dissenters* being *Jacobites*— For the Nature and Circumstances of the Things are Inconfis-  
tent— A *Tory* by Principle, herds with a *Jacobite*, and a *Jacobite* by the very Na-  
ture

ture of the Thing, shaks Hands with a Papist — A High-Flyer runs such Mad lengths in his Politicks, that they force him to be an Atheist, and to practise what he does not believe ; but the *Dissenter* and the *Jacobite*, the *Whig* and the *Pretender*, these jarr in Principles, and are contrary in Essentials, they cannot agree, even by the Nature of Things — It is a foolish Slander therefore, and can have no weight in it ; to say that the *Dissenters* are for the *Pretender*, is a Thing so contrary to their general Practice, so repugnant to their constant settled Principle, that it would be laugh'd at, to have it suggested — 'Tis just as if you should suggest, the *Scots Kirk* to be for Episcopacy, the *New Jurors* to be for King *William's* Memory, and the *High-Flyers* for a Calves-Head Feast : The *Dissenters* to appear for the *Pretender* ! The Senseless Jargon sounds so harsh, no Man can speak it, but it must clash with his Reason, and make a most visible Breach in his Understanding.

The whole Tenour of the *Dissenters* Practice, the whole Course of their Conduct in the World, lies against it ; the Thing cannot be Rational, and therefore nothing but a poor Deluded Rabble, given up of God to strong Delusions, could take a Thing so gross into their Heads, or conceive so Contradictorily of Things — Yet such is the present Infatuation, that as I am Witness to it in several Places in this Kingdom, the Poor People are really made to fancy the Thing, and do believe it as firmly as they believe any Thing. That the *Dissenters* are for Depositing the Queen, pulling down the Constitution, repealing the Succession, and bringing in the *Pretender* : Had I not seen this in the several Countries through which I have Travailed, had I not been an Eye-Witness to it, I could never have believ'd it ; I could never have thought it possible.

And now, Gentlemen, Wonder no more at the Rabbles, Mobbs, and unheard of Tumults, that are Fomented in this Nation, upon the Foot of these Delusions ; where the People are thus impes'd upon, they cannot but be capable of any Imprevisions,

and no wonder they grow Lunatick — And what is the Design ? — Is it any Thing but a meer Meal-Tub Plot, a meer Invention to transpose the Guilt of Cursting the Government, from the Tories to the Whigs ; a meer Meal-Tub Plot — He that cannot see this, must remain blind to the end of the Chapter — That the *Pretender* is in a *Jacobite Mob*, none doubt, and that these Mobs all tend to it, is as certain ; 'tis all at the end a *Jacobite Principle*, it can be nothing else ; and the Principle agrees, as well as the manner.

*Facobitarum tota est iam Fatio Vulgaris,  
Constituit Vulgaris vis numerosa furens.*

*Jacobitism* is at the bottom of all this Faction, and the Plot is, to turn the *Odium* of it all upon the *Whigs* — In the Tory Parties and Projects, the *Pretender* is a natural Consequence ; take a part of them in their Cups, and in their Exaltations, they will acknowledge it ; but if they do not, it is clear to all that View their Conduct — What can the openly Declaring for Tyranny mean, but a Preparation for that Race, whose Principle is Tyranny, and who have been rejected for it ? A Revolution Queen, a Revolution Sovereign, cannot be a Tyrant, after all their pretences to Absolute Power, and Passive Submission, it will not do ; while the Sovereign stands upon the Foundation of the Revolution, it is impossible for them to gratifie even themselves, if they were Tyrannically inclin'd — They must Fight so evidently against themselves, they must so far Contradict to Day what they did. Yesterday, and to Morrow what they do to Day, that the Thing is Impracticable.

The very meaning of the Word *Whig*, is a Man for the Revolution, a King *William* Man — A *Whig* is one that flies always in the Face of Arbitrary Power, that disowns the *Fus Divinum* of the Person of the King — And by this, as a Consequence, he is a profess'd Champion for the House of *Hannover*, because he is fond of Parliamentary Succession — He rejects and disowns all *Hereditary Right*, that is Independent,

pendent, or pretends to be Independent, of Parliamentary Limitation —— Much more any that pretend to be Anti-Parliamentary ; he justifies the taking up Arms against King *James*, and has chearfully carry'd on the War against *France*, as a most effectual Means to keep him out, and all his Popish Race —— Now, how can this Man be for the Pretender ? 'Tis such a piece of Nonsense, as never was offer'd to the World before ; and if this was not a Time, that People may be made to run away with any Thing, it would never be attempted —— Certainly after this, no Man should think strange that People can believe Transubstantiation ; for if we ought to believe Things so much against common Sense as this, that the Whigs, or the Dissenters, are for bringing in the Pretender, then we may believe any Thing how absurd soever.

I remember a piece of Nonsense like this, in the Time of the late Glorious King *William*, when some Men, who pretended to be always Cavilling at what that Great Prince did —— Would, to carry on their Ridiculous Prejudices allow, that King *William* was in a Plot with the *French*, to bring in King *James* —— When the King once was told some of their Ridiculous Imaginations, his Majesty Smilingly said, They had either very Dull, or very Deep Thoughts about him.

Just thus it is in our Case ; To say the Whigs are for the Pretender, our Thoughts of the Whigs must be very dull, and Infathomably deep ; the Design of the Whigs is evidently to Support the Revolution ; they all chearfully not only take all the Oaths that have been made, to keep out the Pretender, but they Contriv'd and Design'd, and made all the Oaths, Abjurations, and Associations that ever were made, to keep him out —— Jacobites may either with a Dispensation for it, or without, swallow all the Oaths, and Abjurations you

can make, but no Party of Jacobites can ever be found, that would voluntarily have contriv'd to Associate, Abjure, or Multiply Oaths, against the Person they would fain restore —— There is a vast Difference between complying with an Oath when Impos'd, and choosing to Impose them : Many Men have been taken into *Algier*, and there they have submitted to the Bondage and Slavery that has been their Lot ; but no Man ever heard of a Man, that ever went to *Algier* on purpose to be made a Slave.

If then the Whigs, of their own meek Choice, Voluntarily and Unconstrain'd, made all these Bars and Butresses against the Pretender, to which the Tories and Jacobites bend with so much Reluctance, and the other with so much Carefulness, all alike in the taking them ; where is the probability of this Foolish Notion, that the Whigs should be for the Pretender ? No, no, Gentlemen, keep out but the Pretender, till the Whigs bring him in, till the Dissenters bring him in, we may be all easie —— And he may e'en go and Hang himself, for he has nothing to do as to that Matter, but to despair and die.

I cannot sometimes but wonder, to what ridiculous Extreme these Follies will run ; and as nothing is to be counted Miraculous after it, so the Event must Threaten us with something Fatal to the poor People ; for when the Scripture speaks of some that were deliver'd over to strong Delusions, and to believe a Lie, it adds, *that they all might be Damn'd*, and as if it had said, it cannot but end in their Destruction, they must be Damn'd, it can be no otherwise, when they are deliver'd up to such Delusions as these.

A D V E R.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

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Paper-Noster-Row. 1710.